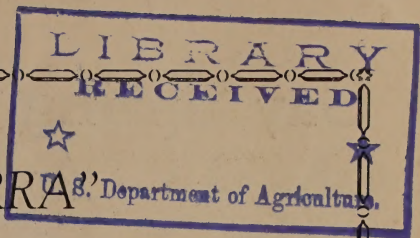


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"BUNYARRA" Department of Agriculture.

Ranunculus and Anemones



"BUNYARRA" HYBRID RANUNCULUS.

JAMES WRIGHT'S
VALLEY NURSERIES

Moonee Ponds, W.4. Victoria

Telephone: Brunswick 266.

Gay Spring Ranunculus and Anemones.

Now is the Planting Time .: Hints on Interplanting.

A Broadcast Talk over 3AR by R. Wright (Jas. Wright's Valley Nurseries)

THESE DELIGHTFUL spring-flowering bulbous plants flower at a season when gay, bright things are appreciated. Briefly, the botanic history is as follows:—

Both Ranunculus and Anemones belong to the natural order Ranunculaceae—which comprises a genus of approximately 160 species dispersed over the greater part of the globe, particularly in the northern hemisphere. Many familiar garden plants are included in the genera, namely, Aconitum, Anemone, Clematis, Delphinium, Helleborus, Paeonia and Ranunculus.

Most of the Ranunculaceae possess acrid and more or less poisonous, but nevertheless, volatile properties. The juice of the leaves of Clematis vitalba is said to have been employed by beggars for producing artificial sores. Several species of Helleborus possess purgative and poisonous properties. The narcotic and poisonous character of aconites are well known.

Most of the species are more or less hardy and have been known to botanists for over 300 years, having been discovered in 1596 growing in Mediterranean regions. The basic colors of Ranunculus were white, yellow and red. Ranunculus asiaticus is the species most commonly known to gardeners, but two other varieties, the Turkey Ranunculus, Ranunculus asiaticus sanguineus and Persian Ranunculus. Ranunculus asiaticus vulgaris have also undoubtedly been used.

The basic colors of the Anemones were probably white, blue and red, and Anemone coronaria is the best known. It has taken years of selecting and specialisation to evolve the gay attractive spring flowers that we known to-day.

I wonder is it the pleasure of digging and preparation that appeals to the gardener? I am afraid not, but rather the fascination of growing beautiful things, and what is more beautiful than these colorful spring subjects?

Their cultivation is not difficult. Being essentially sun-loving, a sunny position should be chosen, also it is necessary that the soil should be of a suitable nature. They delight in a rich loam, but will grow in ordinary garden soil. Heavy soils are most unsuitable and should be removed to a depth of twelve inches and replaced by a compost made up as follows—two parts sandy loam and one part well decomposed cow manure. Whilst the Ranunculus is aquatic by nature, good drainage is essential and the addition of clean sharp sand will ensure this.

It is a good plan to prepare the beds some time before planting as it permits settling of the soil, and it is also advisable to have the beds or borders a little higher than the surrounding edges of lawns or walks.

In old garden beds that have been continually under cultivation, the soil is naturally of a lighter texture and would not require this treatment; but where other garden subjects have been grown continuously, it is advisable to remove the soil to a depth of six inches, replacing same with virgin soil.

Propagation of Ranunculus and Anemones is effected by seeds and by division of the roots. The latter method, however, does not always give satisfactory results. I recommend yearling roots of small size for the best results, which can be planted from the end of March to the first week of May.

Plant nine to twelve inches apart and 1 to 1½ inches deep. The claw-like portion of the Ranunculus roots should be placed downwards. This method of planting is to assist vegetation. It is beneficial to place

a little coarse sand round the roots at the time of planting, but on no account use organic manures. I would strongly emphasise this latter point.

If you prefer to grow *Ranunculus* or *Anemones* from seed, I would advise sowing not later than the end of the present month in a light well-drained soil, covering the bed with about a quarter of an inch of fine sandy soil and using a light mulch of decomposed manure to conserve moisture. Shade from hot sun with brushwood, tea-tree or a canvas blind.

If the weather be dry when planting is completed, a reasonable watering should be given. *Ranunculus* and *Anemones* like plenty of moisture, but over abundant supplies usually cause the leaves to turn yellow and die off prematurely.

When the plants are four to six inches high they will respond to a light dressing of blood and bone manure, not more than 2 ozs. to the square yard, which must be thoroughly incorporated with the soil and followed by a light watering. Under dry conditions, *Ranunculus* and *Anemones* are greatly benefited by watering in the evening, any excess of moisture must be avoided, however, at all times.

Whilst these cultural notes apply to both species, *Anemones* are not quite so adaptable as *Ranunculus*. They grow best in an open situation, such as a bed in the centre of the lawn in which standard *Roses* or similar plants are growing, as these will give the diffused sunlight required.

Another rather unique way of handling *Anemones* is to place six or twelve tubers in a flower pot in a compost made up somewhat as follows:—Two parts turfy loam; one part leaf mould or well decomposed cow manure, to which has been added one half part clean gritty sand.

Place the pots in a sheltered position in the garden, and when the foliage appears above the surface of the soil, remove to an open position. This will prevent the leaves from becoming drawn and weak, and assist the development of flower buds. Watering should be done carefully, and when the flowers commence to appear above the foliage, weak liquid manure may be applied to advantage. The plants can be taken indoors and used for decoration as the flowers open.

Adverting to *Ranunculus*, if you wish to grow for exhibition purposes, I make the following suggestions. Give the plants more growing space by planting twelve inches apart and allow fifteen to eighteen inches between the rows. Restrict the number of flowers to each plant and by removing some of the lateral buds larger blooms are obtainable.

Group and massed planting will give a very effective garden display. Picture a bed of *Ranunculus* with reds, yellows, sunset shades, wall-flower browns and bronzes, blended by nature in perfect harmony, likewise *Anemones* in their varying shades.

As a cut flower for indoor adornment their value is unsurpassed as they last well in water, and their radiant beauty is intensified by artificial light.

A very pretty effect may be obtained by interplanting or oversowing the beds after the bulbs have been planted. Carry out the planting in the ordinary way as for a general garden display, except that the distance between each bulb would be greater (say 12 inches) to allow the clothing or covering plants to grow. These form a carpet over the surface of the bed with the *Ranunculus* showing through blue, rosy-purple, white, red, or when *Nemesia* is used, multi colors.

The following would be suitable for interplanting:—

Aubretia, 6 in., rosy-purple.

Bellis perennis (Garden Daisy), 6 in., red, white.

Lobelia (Crystal Palace), 6 in., ultra-marine blue.

Nemesia (Nana *Compacta* mixed), 8 in., mixed and separate colors.

Nemophila insignis, 6 in., sky blue.

Iceland Poppies.

Violas, *Papilio*, 9 in. to 12 in., lavender blue.

Rapid strides have been made in the development of these splendid garden subjects and in conclusion I would like to say obtain the best strains procurable.

New Giant Flowering Ranunculus

"BUNYARRA" HYBRIDS

In introducing these outstanding strains of Ranunculus we have achieved a standard of excellence and charm unequalled by any other strain. Awards received are as follow:—

1. Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.
2. Award of Merit, Nurseryman and Seedsmen's Association of Victoria.
3. Royal Horticultural Society's Daffodil Show, 1932, Silver Medal. Award of Merit, Malvern and District, October, 1932. Very Highly Commended, R.H.S., Monthly Exhibition, October, and R.H.S., Spring Show, October, 1932.

"BUNYARRA" EXHIBITION STRAIN (Extra Choice Mixed)

By careful and intensive selection of the now popular "Bunyarra" Hybrids, this exclusive exhibition strain has been evolved. The plants are exceptionally robust and extremely floriferous, with a wide colour range, in which the shading is especially vivid and striking, ranging from Primrose to Golden-Yellow, with many striped and pencilled effects; soft Pink to bright Rosy Magenta. Reds include Amaranthe, Cherry and intermediate shades to deep Maroon. Other exquisite shadings are Sunset, Golden-Bronze, Wallflower Brown, Prune Violet, Wine and Silvery Grey.

Early booking will be necessary, as the stock available this season is limited.

PRICES: 12, 3/6; 50, 10/6; 100, 20/-.

"BUNYARRA" GARDEN STRAIN

To meet the request of many Clients for a strain of Ranunculus useful for both garden and indoor decoration, we have introduced this Select Strain.

The plants are vigorous growers, bearing flowers of remarkable size and most beautiful colours. They are the result of many years' selection and breeding; all inferior types and colours have been eliminated, and, we feel sure, will compel admiration.

PRICES: 12, 2/6; 50, 8/-; 100, 15/-. Special quotation for 500 and 1,000 lots.

RANUNCULUS SUPERBISSIMA (Re-select Choice Mixed)

A superior Strain of the Superbissima type, producing very attractive flowers on long stems. The range of colour is not so great as the "Bunyarra" Hybrids, nor the flowers as large. Massed in large beds, they are unrivalled for garden decoration and cut flowers. Plant six to eight inches apart, and one and a half inches below the surface of the soil.

PRICES: 1/6 per dozen; 50, 5/6; 10/- per 100.

RANUNCULUS ASIATICUS (Garden Hybrids Mixed)

An excellent Strain for planting in large beds and borders, and where large quantities of cut flowers are required.

PRICES: 1/- per dozen; 50, 3/-; 5/- per 100.

Anemone—WIND FLOWERS

Very pretty spring flowers—single and semi-double, with a wide range of colours varying through pink, white, purple, blue, red and crimson.

Anemones thrive in a well-drained garden soil, growing best when planted in beds in an open position; heavy, wet soils are most unsuitable to plant them in, such would be best described by one word—Failure. Anemones may be grown in a garden where heavy soils predominate by removing portion of the heavy soil and replacing same with light, free soil, which should be built above the surface of the surrounding lawns or garden, thus providing good drainage.

A suitable manure is bone fertiliser, used at the rate of two ounces to the square yard, which must be well mixed with the soil.

Plant the corms six inches apart, and one and a half to two inches deep. Do not water Anemone corms immediately after planting. Light watering during dry periods, when the plants are in full growth, is beneficial.

ST. BRIGID, Extra Choice Mixed (Semi-double)

PRICES: 1/9 per dozen; 50, 6/-; 10/- per 100.